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Sacramento Cuesta (mountains)

"The Sacramento Mountains form the highly elevated portion of the western margin of the great limestone cuesta that extends from the east side of the Tularosa Basin to the Pecos Valley. This cuesta attains an altitude of more than 9,000 feet south of Cloudcroft and slopes down on the east to an altitude of about 3,200 feet in the Pecos Valley in Eddy County. To the south the high cuesta continues into the Guadalupe Mountains, which extend to the southern margin of New Mexico and to El Capitan Peak, in Texas, where the altitude is 8,690 feet. The principal structural features of this region are shown in the cross sections in figure 23. In the northwestern portion of the region there is a deep basin of Cretaceous and overlying igneous rocks, and to the north, in the Capitan Mountains, the strata are cut by a large mass of later Tertiary intrusive rock. In the greater part of the region there is a general uniform dip to the east, with a few local variations and some faults." ~~THE~~

"The rocks underlying this cuesta consist of a thick mass of the Chupadera formation, the red Abo sandstone, and 2,500 feet or more of limestones, shales, and sandstones of the Magdalena group and older formations. It appears probable that this succession includes some beds that may be favorable as sources of reservoirs of oil or gas, especially toward the east. To the west the higher sandstones of the Chupadera formation are deeply trenched by the stream valleys, but to the east they pass under cover and storage conditions may be more favorable."

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"The Sacramento Mountains are due mainly to an anticlinal uplift which in the higher portion of the range for a few miles southeast of Alamogordo is probably broken by a fault. North of Alamogordo, as shown in section B., figure 23, the arch is complete, at least in the Magdalena group, and southeast of Alamogordo the uplift is well exposed in Alamo Creek."

"In the northwestern extension of the Sacramento Cuesta in Lincoln County the strata bend down into a basin which is occupied by an extensive area of Cretaceous shales and sandstones and Tertiary igneous rocks of the Sierra Blanca. East of this basin is an anticline of considerable prominence which passes a short distance west of Lincoln. Its axis is in the outcrop of the Chupadera formation, which is underlain by the Abo sandstone and Magdalena group in regular order. This uplift passes northward through the Jicarilla Mountains and dies out in the plateaus northeast of Ancho. p. 210 This deformation is due mainly to the great intrusive mass of Capitan Mountain, not far north."